

Children's Newspaper

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

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HOTEL IN THE TREETOPS

The Queen Mother to visit a strange building in an East African forest

DURING her visit to East Africa next month Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother will spend a night at one of the strangest hotels in the world. Known as Treetops, it is built in the branches of a huge tree in the National Park in the Aberdare Mountains of Kenya.

The most fascinating feature about Treetops is not so much that it is 40 feet above the ground, but that it has been built alongside a water-hole which attracts many species of game animals from far and near.

Almost any night of the year visitors to the hotel can watch

leaving the bottom rung just out of reach of the trunk of the tallest elephants.

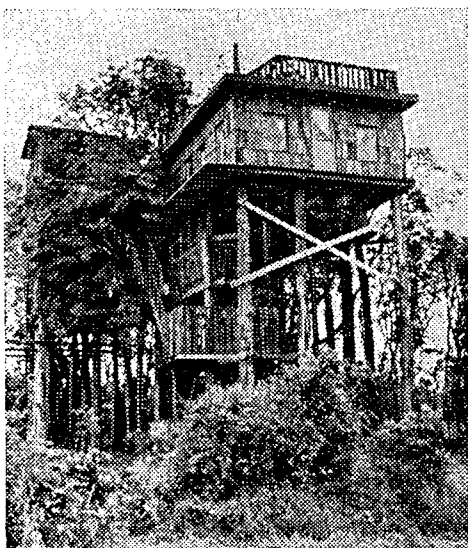
The Queen Mother will actually be the first member of the Royal Family to stay at the present Treetops Hotel.

But seven years earlier, in the very month of February, her daughter, then Princess Elizabeth, stayed at the original Treetops Hotel on this site. This was the building later burned down by Mau Mau terrorists. It was during her stay there that she heard the tragic news that her father, King George the Sixth, had died and that she had succeeded to the throne.

As the late Colonel Jim Corbett, author of *The Man-Eaters of Kumoan*, so aptly put it:

"For the first time in the history of the world, a young girl climbed into a tree one day a Princess

and, after having what she described as her most thrilling experience, she climbed down from the tree the next day a Queen—God bless her."



Treetops Hotel in the Aberdare Forest of Kenya
Department of Information, Nairobi

herds of elephant, buffalo, and antelope as they come down to drink. Rhino are frequently seen, and hardly a night passes without friendly baboons climbing the timber supports of the hotel to beg titbits from visitors sitting on the verandah. Indeed, so bold are these baboons that the windows have had to be specially toughened to prevent them breaking in and helping themselves to food from the kitchen.

Treetops is 12 miles from the nearest town, but it has all the amenities of a modern hotel including hot and cold water, electricity, and telephone. Staying there is expensive, but if the visitor happens to strike on one of those rare nights when no animals are seen, no charge for that stay is made.

The Queen Mother will drive from Nyeri, north of Nairobi, and will have to travel the last quarter of a mile on foot through the dark forest. Motor vehicles have to be kept away so as not to scare the animals.

The hotel is reached by a ladder which pulls up like a drawbridge,

Anne had a little lamb

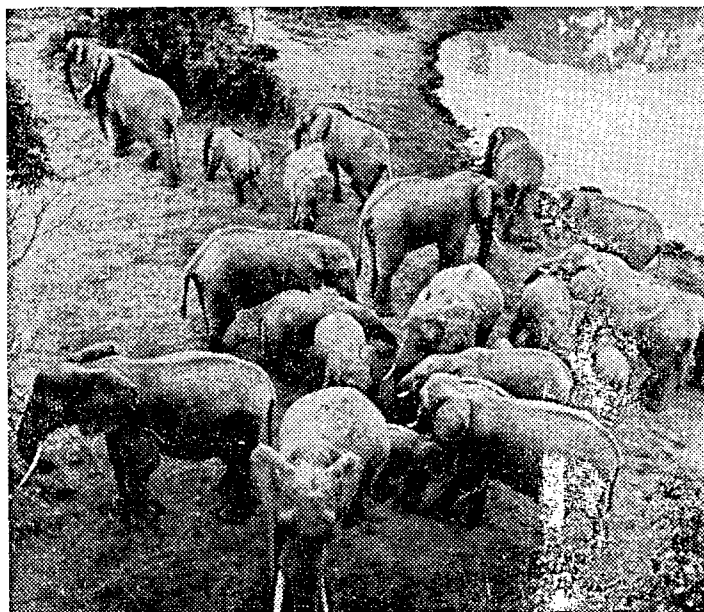


Last year 12-year-old Anne Cave of Rushden, Northants., was given a lamb by a farmer. Anne lived in a town so her pet had to stay on the farm, where it was being brought up on the bottle. She visited it whenever she could and often took it out for walks, but soon it was so big and powerful that in the end it was the pet which was taking Anne for a walk.

At one time it looked as if Anne's woolly friend would have to go the way of all sheep, but now the farmer has decided to give it a permanent home in his orchard and Anne will visit it.

SAVING THE CLIMB

It is planned to build a chairlift to the top of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. This would carry 200 passengers an hour to a station about 50 feet from the summit.



A herd of elephants at the foot of Treetops

Growing crops they never see

Blind Africans are being taught how to grow crops at Salama, a small village in Uganda. So well are they learning how to plant, weed, and harvest merely by touch that an Agricultural Officer told them recently that "if all farmers in Uganda could farm as well as those at Salama, the country's agricultural production could be doubled overnight."

Each new student at the Uganda Foundation for the Blind spends his first month or two on communal work such as cutting grass and digging. This is to give him confidence through contact with other blind people, for the chances are that he has never before been away from his native village.

INTO THE UNKNOWN

Agreeing to go to the Salama school is probably the biggest decision he has ever made. It means leaving relatives and friends to venture into an unknown world.

But the blind students soon settle down in their new surroundings. Life at the school offers much more interest than they have ever experienced at home. They are able to listen to the radio, newspapers are read to them, they learn braille, and they have three lessons a week on the xylophone or the drum.

After a few weeks a student is given a smallholding of his own to look after. Here he is taught how to sow his crops in straight lines, how to distinguish weeds from plants, and how to tell when a crop is ready for harvesting.

"We cannot give the student eyes," the Superintendent of the school told a C.N. correspondent, "but we try to teach them how to see with their hands. When they leave here there are generally only two farm jobs they cannot do—sorting cotton according to grade and picking coffee beans. One or two of the students have, in fact, learned how to tell when the beans are ripe by the degree of oiliness in the skin, but most Africans' hands are too tough for that."

Some of the students learn so quickly that they are able to pass their proficiency test after only seven months, but the majority take about twelve.

Then they return to their homes, able for the first time in their lives to grow their own food and earn some money of their own. Most important of all, they are able for the first time to look after themselves and not have to depend on the charity of relatives and friends.

FIRST A BUS AND THEN A BOAT

A school bus is to be bought out of a fund raised by the pupils of the new Braehead secondary school at Buckhaven, Fife. It will be used for special school outings, and its maintenance will be carried out in the school's technical department.

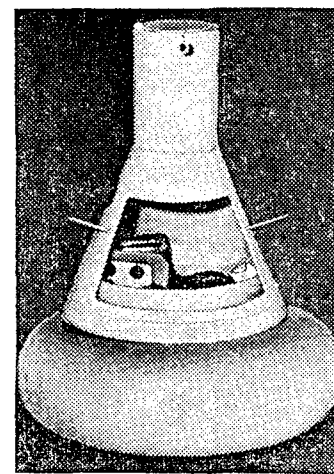
Once they have bought the bus, pupils mean to go on and get a sailing boat.

ROCKETING ROUND THE WORLD

The United States Government has ordered a "space capsule" capable of carrying a man in orbit round the Earth for 24 hours, and then bringing him back safe and sound. Two years, it is estimated, will be needed to design and build such a vehicle, and with its rocket engine the cost would be about £77,000,000.

Intended to make several trips round the world at a height of 100 to 150 miles, the satellite will have a second rocket to bring it out of orbit and return it to Earth. It will also carry two parachutes to slow it down and allow a safe landing. The satellite would float if it came down in the sea, in which case its flashing lights, smoke signals, and dye markers would show its position.

The intrepid passenger will lie on a specially constructed couch in his air-conditioned cabin and will have a supply of food and water. With a two-way radio he



will broadcast his experiences; and strange experiences they may well be, for part of the purpose of "Project Mercury," as it is called, is to test human reaction to the state of weightlessness in space.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CIVIL SERVICE

By the C N Parliamentary Correspondent

PARLIAMENTS come and go, but the machinery of government ticks over almost unchanged. Our schools, our medical service, our post offices, are administered and our taxes assessed—and collected.

All this and much more we owe to our Civil Service. And we owe the modern Civil Service to the commonsense of the Victorians who reorganised it, placed it "above politics," and made it a great and stable force in our lives.

Most people would guess that the modern Civil Service grew out of the struggle between King and Parliament in the 17th century. And up to a point they would be quite right. It was in that century that the Divine Right of monarchs to rule as they would gave way to governments responsible to Parliament and, ultimately, to the people.

The growth of our basic government departments can be traced back to that time. But there was a kind of Civil Service long before there was a parliamentary system. The true ancestor of "Whitehall," as we call the Government machine, was the Anglo-Saxon ruler.

GREAT COUNCIL

In his day he governed with the aid of a Great Council. It was all very well for these wise men to make a policy, but somebody had to put it into words and draw up charters and writs, especially as the King and his advisers could rarely read or write.

So this duty fell upon members of the Royal Household recruited from men who had taken holy orders, known as clerics or clerks, and who were almost the only men who could read and write. These servants may be described as the forefathers of the Civil Service.

The most important of them today is, of course, the Treasury, which shapes the nation's financial policy and controls the staffing arrangements for the Civil Service as a whole.

The Treasury and all the other Government departments which make up the Civil Service employ more than a million men and women. About 385,000 are "industrial" Civil Servants employed in such establishments as Royal Ordnance factories and Admiralty dockyards.

SERVANT OF THE CROWN

But when we say Civil Service we usually mean the non-industrial workers in the great family of "Whitehall," though not all Government departments are to be found there. There are about 630,000 of these, one-third of them women.

In law a Civil Servant is a servant of the Crown. He cannot hold political or judicial office. He has a high code of conduct, securely based on the fact that, however governments may alter, the Civil Service remains the same, whereas in other countries the top jobs may change hands

with every change of government.

There are four broad classes of Civil Servant. First come the administrators who are in daily contact with Ministers and responsible for advising them. They usually have a university background. There are only about 2500 of them.

MAINLY SPECIALISTS

Next come some 67,000 members of the executive class. These are mainly specialists. Then comes the clerical class, numbering about 180,000, who keep records and summarise the documents for senior officers. The fourth class contains some 26,000 shorthand-typists, copy typists, and learner typists.

The Civil Service also embodies a large number of doctors, lawyers, engineers, and research workers, and inspectors of various kinds. The "messengerial" class includes messengers and office cleaners. Then there is the large figure of 200,000 in the Minor and Manipulative class—including postmen, postal and telegraph officers, telephonists and telegraphists.

CENTRAL SUPERVISION

Under the Treasury, there is central supervision over the whole of this field of Government activity. Recruiting standards are kept up to date as the education system develops.

In the eyes of the world the British Civil Servant is today regarded as an example of integrity to be followed by all those younger countries whom Britain has been training to govern themselves.

Skegness is still so bracing

The figure of a young boy bounding along the beach is to replace that "jolly fisherman" who has advertised Skegness for the past 55 years. The new character has been nicknamed the fisherman's "great-grandson."

The fisherman figure bounding along the beach was originally painted by that great poster artist John Hassall to advertise half-day excursions from King's Cross to Skegness—at 3s. return!

The figure of the boy is in sou'wester and rubber boots, but instead of the thick woollen jersey and heavy trousers worn by the fisherman of 50 years ago, he has a pair of bathing trunks.

The new poster has been designed by the British Railways publicity department and is to be used in national and provincial newspaper advertising campaigns, and on 3000 posters and 75,000 folders.

But the original slogan, Skegness is SO bracing, remains unchanged.

BEST-SELLER

The Bible still remains the world's best-seller, and last year 26 million copies were bought.

The British and Foreign Bible Society says that Bible sales increase as more people learn to read, especially in parts of Africa.

Headhunters in the Solomon Islands waited 25 years for a translation into their language. On the day it came out they bought 10,000 copies. Some sold the shrunken heads of their former victims to get the money for their copies.

In memory of a Kikuyu

A new farm institute has just been built at Thogoto, Kenya, in memory of Senior Chief Waruhiu, a Kikuyu leader who was killed by the Mau Mau in 1952. It cost more than £16,000, contributed by people all over Kenya.

Chief Waruhiu was a keen supporter of modern farming methods among his people.

News from Everywhere

The Queen, the Queen Mother, and the Duchess of Kent have sent gifts to a sale of works of art which is to be held in April to help the Winchester Cathedral Preservation Fund. About £20,000 is needed for repairs to the building.

Band-girl Sandra



The town band at Egham, Surrey, has only one girl member, Sandra Winstanley. She recently qualified for the National Youth Brass Band.

A bottle found on the beach at Southwold, Suffolk, contained a message from a Dutch boy asking for a pen-friend. The message was in eight languages.

A white blackbird has been seen at Necton, Norfolk, at the same spot where one was seen last year.

CLAIM JUSTIFIED

An Australian motor insurance company, doubtful of claims from Queensland motorists concerning collisions with kangaroos, sent an inspector to investigate. On his way he collided with a kangaroo.

Russian scientists claim the discovery of volcanic mountains nearly 10,000 feet high in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

Over 500,000 tourists visited Russia last year.

Letters written by Madame de Stael, the famous 18th-century French author, have been discovered in Czechoslovakia. They are to be published by the Czech Academy of Sciences.

Starlings are blamed for many breakdowns on the Eastern Electricity circuit. When a flock perches on overhead cables the weight on a single span may be as much as a quarter-of-a-ton; when the birds fly off together the cables swing, touch, and cause a short circuit.

A version of the New Testament in modern language has just been completed; it will be published in 1961.

The population of France increased by 460,000 last year and is now nearly 45 million.

Norfolk Education Committee has formed a Sailing Association for its schools.

VALUABLE DOGS

A record number of 4315 pedigree dogs were exported from Britain last year. They were valued at £500,000. The most popular breed was the miniature poodle, and next came the Welsh corgi.

A husband and wife are studying together for the G.C.E. examination at evening classes at Darwen, Lancashire.

The rush of air caused by an avalanche near St. Anton in Austria derailed the wagons of a goods train and threw eight of them down an embankment. No one was hurt.

More than 1000 head of young dairy cattle are being sent from New Zealand to grazing areas prepared for them at Mindanao, in the Philippines.

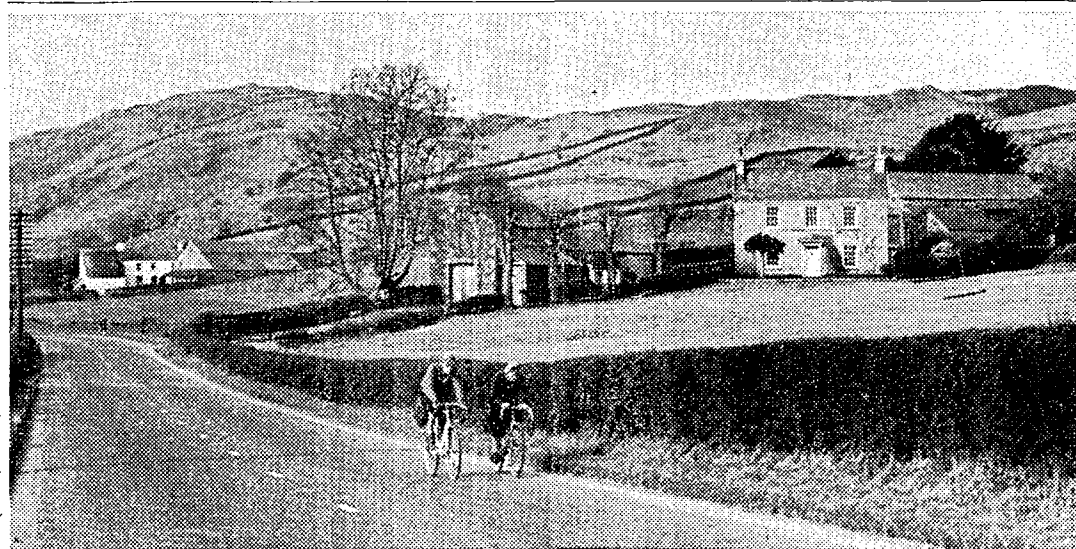
THEY SAY . . .

IN London you don't really see what is going on.

The Prime Minister

A POLITICIAN should exaggerate a bit or no one will listen.

Mr. Hugh Gaitskell



OUR HOMELAND

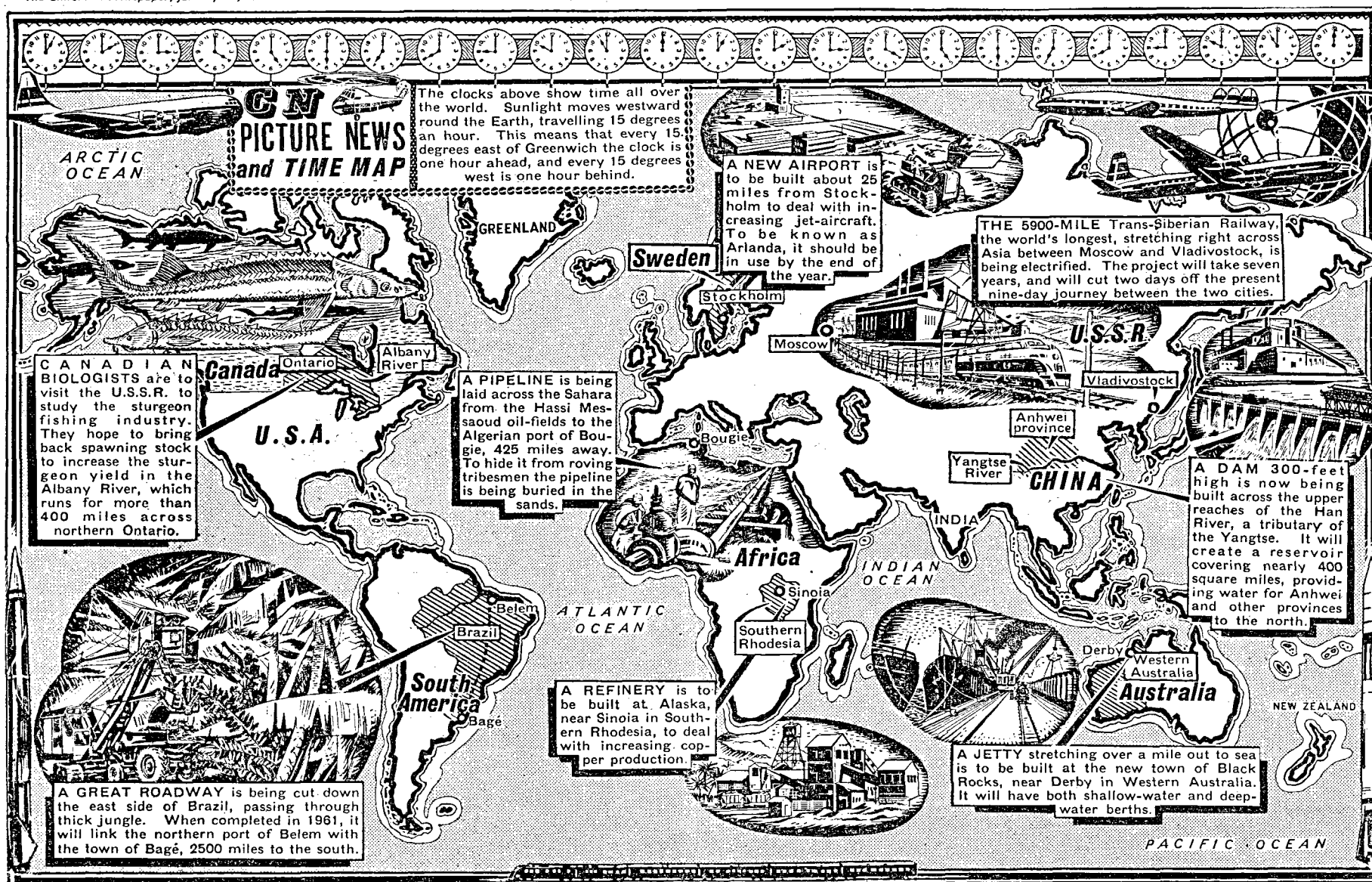
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FLYING EXCURSIONS

"No-passport" day trips to France during 1959 are announced by two British airlines—Channel Air Bridge, who operate from Southend Airport, and Silver City Airways, operating from Lydd (Ferryfield) Airport.

Both airlines expect these day trips to be popular with air-minded youngsters, dozens of whom collect at both airports every weekend.

The no-passport day excursions between Lydd and Le Touquet start on March 17 and continue until the end of September. The fare will be 65s. return.

Channel Air Bridge will start their day trips from Southend to Calais by the end of January. The London-Calais return fare (including coach) will be 79s., and the fare direct from Southend 70s.

Keeping the home fires burning

Old people in the mid-Sussex village of Lindfield could hardly believe their eyes. Who was the Fairy Godmother who had dumped firewood on their steps?

The news soon leaked out. Boy Scouts, quick to grasp that cold weather can bring real hardship to old people, managed to collect supplies of wood. Hour after hour they chopped it up. And then they toured their home district delivering firewood to those who were most likely to need it.

"The best good deed of the winter," said one old-age pensioner.

Yorks' house in the gate

A little wooden house built into one of the ancient city gateways of York is to be restored by the Corporation. The gate is known as Walmgate Bar and was built in the 12th century. The old two-storey house, supported by two stone columns, was added in the reign of Elizabeth I.

When the house has been fully repaired it will probably be let to a voluntary organisation for their meetings.

END OF MORE LINES

The branch lines between Chesham and Monmouth, and from Monmouth to Ross-on-Wye have been closed to passenger traffic, though goods trains will still use them.

Symond's Yat Station is to close and the stationmaster has been presented with a clock given by residents of the village.

British Railways alleged that passenger traffic was losing £23,000 a year on these lines.

Bleeps in the pocket

Nottingham police are trying out a small radio receiver which fits into the breast pocket and gives a "bleep" when called by headquarters. This will be a signal for any policeman so equipped to telephone headquarters at once.

VETERAN STREET LAMP

Plymouth Corporation has just sold an old street lighting standard, at scrap price, to the firm who installed it in 1891. It will be preserved as a specimen of the company's earliest productions outside their museum of electrical equipment at Chelmsford.

Standing 25 feet high and made of cast iron, it has an ornamental top and bears the Plymouth coat-of-arms. Some 20 similar columns are still in service at Plymouth, from the days when carbon-arc street lights were introduced.

In Nigerian dress



For his fine work in an African leper colony Mr. F. Hasted, a Methodist missionary worker, is permitted to wear the chieftain's robes of a Nigerian tribe.

Fate of Dungeness

Thousands of migrating birds and butterflies are vitally concerned (though they do not know it!) with discussions now taking place in London over whether the Central Electricity Generating Board should or should not build a nuclear power station on the promontory of Dungeness, Kent.

The Nature Conservancy claim that this would be a disaster for vast hosts of migrating birds and insects who seem to use this spot as a kind of crossroads.

Dungeness is the home of many wheatears and ringed plovers, common terns and long-eared owls. But for the geologist it is important in demonstrating how the action of the tides may alter the coastline, for it seems that this promontory of Kent has been built up by erosion of the Fairlight Cliffs of Sussex.

TOO SLIPPERY

The Cyclists' Touring Club has issued a pamphlet drawing attention to the dangers of the slippery metal studs, strips, and similar markings embedded in our roads. Many accidents, it states, have been caused by cyclists skidding on these studs and plates; and there is added danger because cyclists, warily on the lookout for them, tend to keep their eyes too much on the road surface.

The pamphlet, called *Scrap*, can be obtained free (postage is appreciated) from the C.T.C., 3 Craven Hill, London, W.2.

RAILWAY FOR £5

A railway built by George Stephenson has been offered to Crich Parish Council, Derbyshire, for £5. It is the limestone line from Crich Cliff Quarry to the works of the Clay Cross Company two or three miles away.

George Stephenson founded the firm and built the railway, which was abandoned last year as too expensive, after a century of use.

The offer includes a tunnel, two bridges, and five acres of land as well as the railway track.

John and Jane in the lead

John and Jane once again head the lists of last year's birth announcements in *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, and *The Manchester Guardian*.

Anne (or Ann) had second place among girls' names in *The Times* and *The Manchester Guardian*, and Elizabeth in *The Daily Telegraph*. Among the boys, James was second in *The Times*, Richard in *The Daily Telegraph*, and David in *The Manchester Guardian*.

ON A PILLAR OF COAL

The new county secondary school at Newhall, Derbyshire, is built on what is virtually a pillar of coal. The National Coal Board has agreed to leave the coal under the building unmined.

A former building, which the school replaces, was wrecked by the removal of the coal beneath it.

ERNEST THOMSON WRITES ABOUT RADIO AND TELEVISION PERSONALITIES AND PROGRAMMES

SKETCH CLUB ON TOUR

SKETCH CLUB in BBC Children's TV is to follow the example of the famous Children's Caravan by going on tour, but without waiting for summertime. On Thursday, February 5, the travelling version will open for a week at the City Art Gallery, Glasgow. If plans work out, Adrian Hill will be there and viewers will see the inaugural ceremony.

The exhibition will be packed with pictures sent in by children and shown in previous programmes. I hear that the next port of call will be the Tully

House Art Gallery, Carlisle. Then the southward trek will take in the Williams Art Gallery, Birkenhead, on April 6, with Liverpool next on the list.

Adrian Hill and producer Gordon Murray are sending about 200 sketches for the different art galleries to make their choice.

Gordon Murray told me: "We've been waiting for this chance for a long time. At last visitors will be able to see the children's work in colour. Some of the sketches are really beautiful."

Repeat of Clocks and Blocks

BECAUSE of an historic interruption in the Clocks and Blocks puppet play in BBC Children's TV last October, the programme is to be repeated on Tuesday, February 10. Just when the story of the kingdom of Rubovia was getting under way on October 25, news came through from Rome of the election of Pope John. The programme was broken into for Eurovision pictures of the white smoke emerging from the Vatican chimney.

"We resumed the Rubovia play immediately afterwards," said Gordon Murray, "but the thread of the story was lost. I am very glad the TV planners are giving us another session."

They all missed Flint McCullough



No one at Television House guessed how great was the popularity of Robert Horton (Flint McCullough), of Wagon Train, until he was missing from the programme for two weeks. Nearly 1200 viewers wrote anxious letters to Associated-Rediffusion asking when they would be seeing the intrepid scout again.

He is back now, much to everybody's relief. Fan letters about Wagon Train roll in all the time, mostly for 34-year-old Horton. Most of them come from teenagers. There have been requests for a lock of his hair and even invitations to birthday parties.

Bush baby party planned



HUGHIE GREEN, the Double Your Money man in Associated-Rediffusion, is always springing surprises. Recently he walked on with a duck. Another time it was a seagull. Soon, I hear, we can expect more bush babies.

Skiffle, the bush baby in the picture, was given two years ago to Christopher, Hughie Green's son, on his ninth birthday. Christopher has now been presented with a Mrs. Skiffle bush baby. It is hoped very soon to have a bush baby party in Double Your Money.

Cameras in the Cathedral

ONLY viewers who sat up late saw inside the beautifully restored Llandaff Cathedral when the newly-consecrated organ was televised on December 4. BBC cameras will be back there at 6.5 p.m. on Sunday, for close-up pictures of Sir Jacob Epstein's huge and impressive statue entitled Christ in Majesty.

Ifan Williams, Children's Hour organiser in Cardiff, will tell viewers about this latest and, as some people think, greatest work of the famous sculptor.

Rowing across the Irish Sea

No one interested in real life adventure should miss Buried Treasure on BBC Television at 9 o'clock on Friday. It is the filmed story of an attempt by four Kerry fishermen last summer to row from Ireland to Wales in the sort of skin boat used some 4500 years ago.

Thomas Connell, Sean Cricchan, Patrick Kearney, and Maurice O'Connor can be seen making the boat themselves—it resembles a modern Irish curragh—and setting out to sea. They rowed with four oars more or less continuously for 15 hours. Then the wind rose and the sea became so high that Producer Paul Johnstone decided it was too dangerous to go on.

But he believes the crew could have made the voyage, carrying sheep, too.

Following close in a motor-boat were Johnstone and Lt. Commdr. A. A. de Leathes, R.N., a navigator "lent" by the Navy specially for the experiment.

Although they were stopped by the storm, I hear that good pictures were obtained as the party set out from Wexford. So as not to disturb the rhythm of their rowing, the men took only one three-minute rest.

Paul Johnstone was hoping to use homing ravens for navigational purposes, as the ancients did, but nobody was ready to lend their pets for such a hazardous voyage.

Susan plays the maracas



HAVE you spotted that Susan Jons, resident singer in BBC Television's Dig This! also plays the maracas? She is a skilled pianist, too, but leaves the piano-playing in the Saturday programme to Jerry Butler. Now 23, Susan has spent all her career singing with dance bands and is

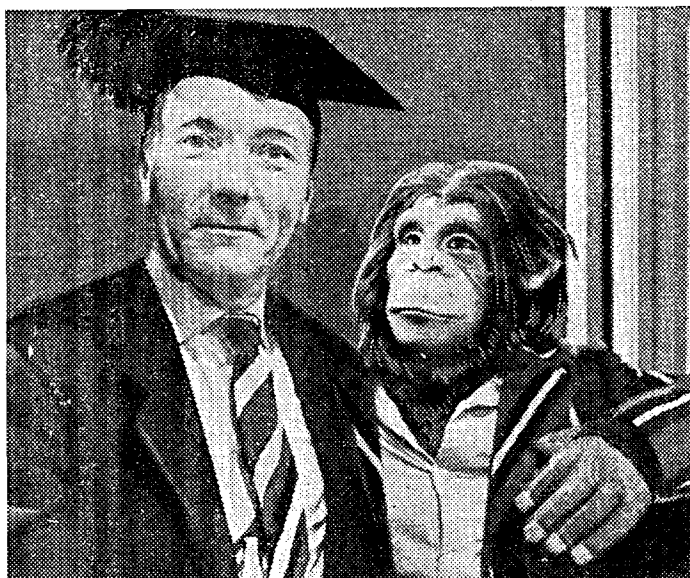
herself married to a musician. The BBC, by the way, never forget that colour TV is still to come. They have sent me a fashion note about the Miller-men's uniform. Cut in the Italian style, it consists of blue jackets, fawn cavalry twill slacks, red ties, and white shirts.

SHOW FOR THE DEAF WHICH ALL ENJOY

HAVE you noticed that in BBC Television programmes for deaf children, Producer Ursula Eason makes them equally interesting to viewers who have full hearing? Next Friday Children's TV has a variety show for deaf children which all can enjoy.

For example, one of the most exciting acts will be Indian magic by Ram Das and his assistant Kim. Seeing is believing, it is said, but surely not with Ram Das's milk bottle trick. He shuts the milk in a cupboard which he then pierces with a sword from all directions. When the door is opened the milk is intact. He has, too, what he calls a Sun and Moon act, telling an unbelievable story without words.

Our old friend Sandy Sandford will also be taking part, and Stephen Skoyles draws the pictures.



Sandy Sandford with his friend Jacko

Round and round in Toytown

THE Wreck of the Toytown Belle, one of the most memorable of the famous stories by the late S. G. Hulme Beaman, is being done in BBC Children's Hour on Saturday, February 7. The tale is in two parts, and the second will be heard in March.

Altogether there are 28 Toytown stories. They are broadcast on the first Saturday of each month in a continuous cycle, which means that the same story comes round every two years and four months. Each time, though, it is a new recording.

Felix Felton, as you probably know, has been the Mayor of Toytown for years and years. Derek McCullough, as narrator and Larry the Lamb, is another old-timer. So are Norman Shelley, Preston Lockwood, and Ivan Samson.

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MYSTERY ANIMAL OF BRITAIN

THE otter is a mystery animal, not in the Loch Ness monster sense that nobody knows what it is, but because few people know what it does. Though there are otters on practically every river in the British Isles, no large and common British animal has been less studied than the otter. It is hunted, of course, but many hunters, alas, display remarkably little interest in the habits of the animals they chase.

A few years ago a number of naturalists interested in the otter got together and formed a committee to do some research into the otter's habits. They were lucky enough to get a grant from the Nature Conservancy and to be able to appoint a full-time research-worker, Marie Stephens, who is now married and living in America. Her report was published not long ago and sums up just about everything we know about the otter at present.

Otters are largely nocturnal, aquatic animals and are great wanderers up and down rivers; that is why they are so hard to study and why so little is known about them. You cannot sit down and watch otters as you can birds, for you never know where to go and watch. Indeed Marie Stephens's advice to would-be otter-watchers, is rather like Mr. Punch's famous warning to those about to get married (Don't!). She says: "By far the best way to see otters is to



Portrait of an otter

take up fishing and not deliberately to watch for them at all."

But there are certain signs by which you can tell if otters are about. They leave their footprints ("scals") in wet mud by the streams they frequent, and you can also find their droppings ("spraints"). Indeed, Miss Stephens advises that "the surest way of tracking an otter is by following its spraints."

TELL-TALE BUBBLES

Three other kinds of tell-tale signs left by otters are slides or hauling-out places by streams; rolling places, where they dry and groom themselves on the grass; and "sign heaps," tufts of grass twisted up and scented by the otter's scent glands, to attract other otters. Also when an otter has just dived into the water, you can often see the "chain" of bubbles it leaves behind.

Any of you who live in the country near a river or stream might find one or more of these signs if you search carefully, and then you will know that the next time you go fishing you stand a chance of seeing an otter! Even those who live on the outskirts of towns need not give up hope of finding traces of an otter if they are near a river. They even come down the Thames quite close to London and have been seen in recent years at Hammersmith. Not long ago a large dog otter took to visiting a houseboat at Tagg's Island at Hampton Court. In 1922 two were actually seen under Westminster Bridge.

The two main mysteries in the life history of the otter are its breeding season and its food. The Otter Report sheds some light on both of these. It is pretty certain that the otter in Britain has no definite breeding season, but that cubs can be born in any month of the year.

As for the mystery of what it eats, it is fairly clear that the otter will eat anything it can come by. In a trout stream that will naturally be trout, but elsewhere it is just as happy with coarse fish, eels, crayfish, young moorhens, or any other animal food. But it by no means follows that because an otter eats fish it is the angler's enemy. That is a fascinating question, about which I will write next week. RICHARD FITTER

To market in the Rhubarb Special

Among the special trains now operating between the West Riding of Yorkshire and London is a "rhubarb special." From January to March a vast quantity of forced rhubarb is lifted in the darkness of long sheds which abound in Airedale, particularly around Leeds. The special train, which runs nightly in the season, enables the rhubarb to reach Covent Garden in a fresh and appetising condition.

More forced rhubarb is produced in the West Riding than anywhere else in Britain—about

5000 acres of it—and it is sent to markets in several parts of the country. Indeed, this is probably the most important rhubarb-growing area in the world, although the plant originally came from the East and was first known in England as the "barbarian plant from the Volga."

The West Riding is not a gardener's paradise, for the soil is heavy and the atmosphere laden with soot; yet it would seem these are just the right conditions for rhubarb.

INTO DARK SHEDS

For the first three years of its life, the plant knows the great outdoors, responding well to the acid nature of the soil, a legacy of industrial pollution. Then the rhubarb goes into the darkness of long, low forcing sheds.

These sheds have no windows, so even when the rhubarb is eventually harvested, no daylight is admitted. Candles on long sticks provide the illumination by which the men work. The sheds are warmed by water pipes, the boilers being outside.

So, the next time you have rhubarb and custard, remember that you may be enjoying a delicacy from the West Riding, borne southwards through the night by special train to the bustling market at Covent Garden.

Clarinet leader



Julia Comfort is the leading clarinet player in her school orchestra at Cheam, Surrey. She was a prize-winner at the Kingston Musical Festival for the second year running.

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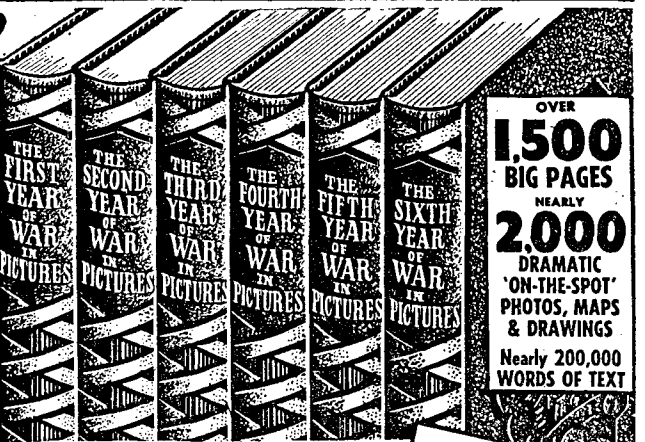
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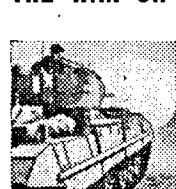
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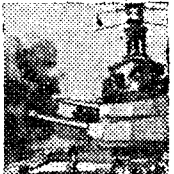


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COMMONWEALTH PA



A broad avenue in Nairobi, capital of Kenya and commercial hub of all East Africa



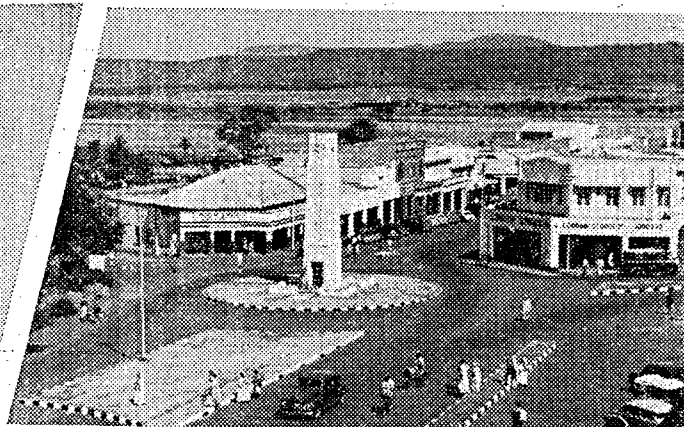
Umbrella thorn trees among the wheatfields

ON February 5 Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother is due to arrive at Nairobi to begin an extensive tour of Kenya and Uganda. Kenya has an area of 225,000 square miles, slightly bigger than that of France. The full title of the country is Kenya Colony and Protectorate, the Protectorate being a ten-mile strip along the coast which is leased from the Sultan of Zanzibar. The population, mainly African, is 6,260,000. Nairobi, the capital, has about 210,000 citizens.

THOUGH astride the Equator, much of Kenya's interior has a temperate climate, owing to its height, and many British settlers have established farms there. Glorious mountain scenery and a fascinating variety of wild animals attract tourists. One of the National Parks, the Royal Tsavo, is bigger than Wales.



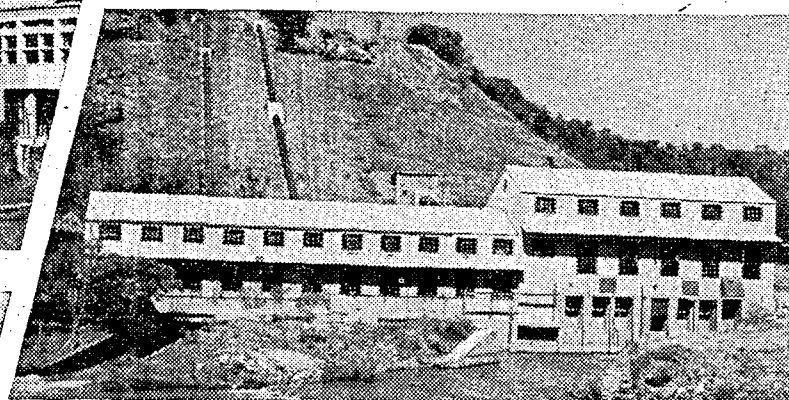
Legislative Council Building, Nairobi



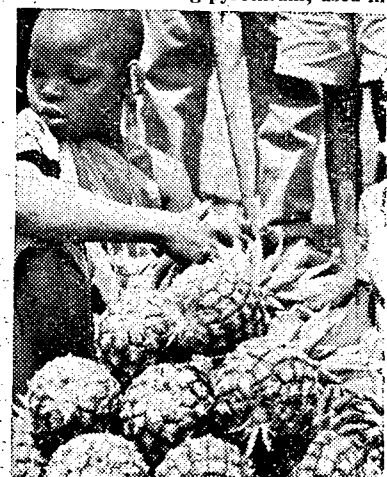
Kisumu, on an arm of Lake Victoria



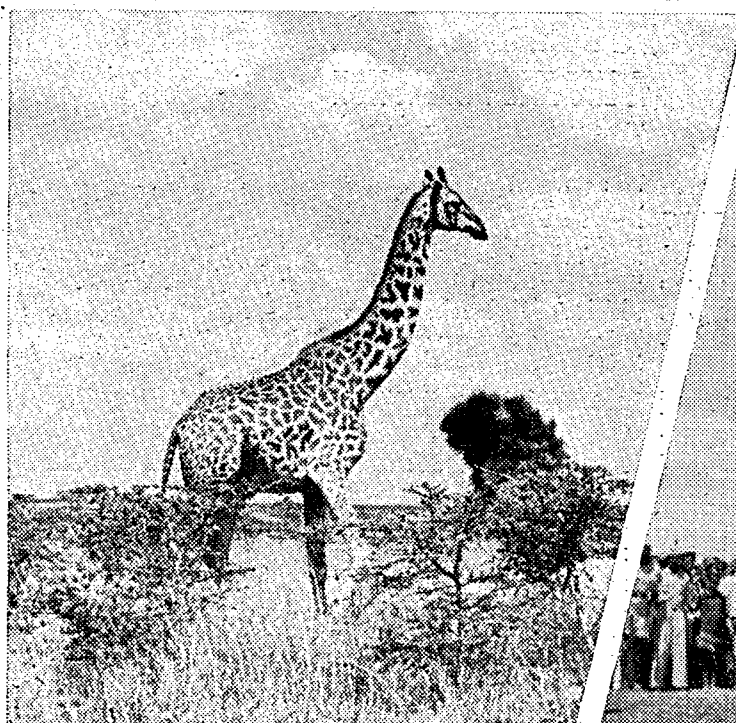
Picking pyrethrum, used in



Hydro-electric power station on the Tana River



Tasty crop of



A familiar sight in Nairobi's own small National Park



In mask and ostrich plumes for a battle dance



Tea-picker with her basket, serving a valuable export

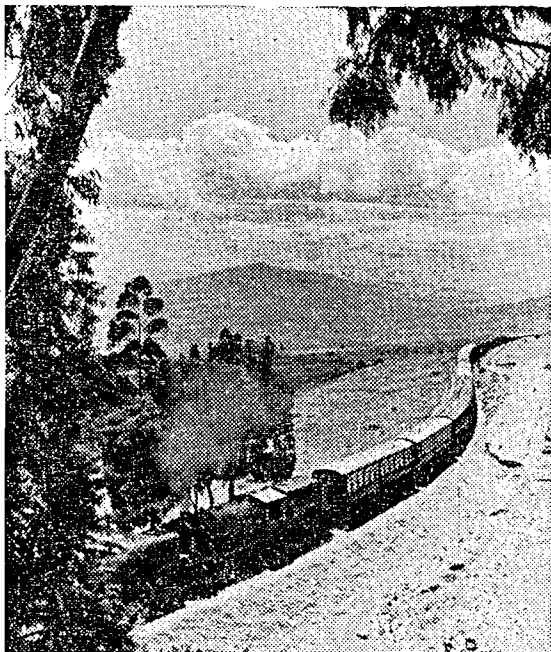
er, January 31, 1959

INORAMA ... KENYA

KENYA was sparsely inhabited by wandering tribesmen before it became a British Protectorate in 1895. British settlement began early in the present century, and in 1920 Kenya became a Crown Colony.

AGRICULTURE is the main occupation and chief source of the colony's wealth, the most valuable products being coffee, tea, sisal (for making ropes and sacks), wattle extract and bark (used in tanning), hides and skins, pyrethrum (for insecticide). Gold, asbestos, copper, lead, and zinc are among the most important mineral products. Timber is obtained from some 6530 square miles of forests. The colony also has numerous factories producing a wide range of goods.

Many of these pictures are by courtesy of the Department of Information, Nairobi.



Passenger train climbing the Great Rift Valley



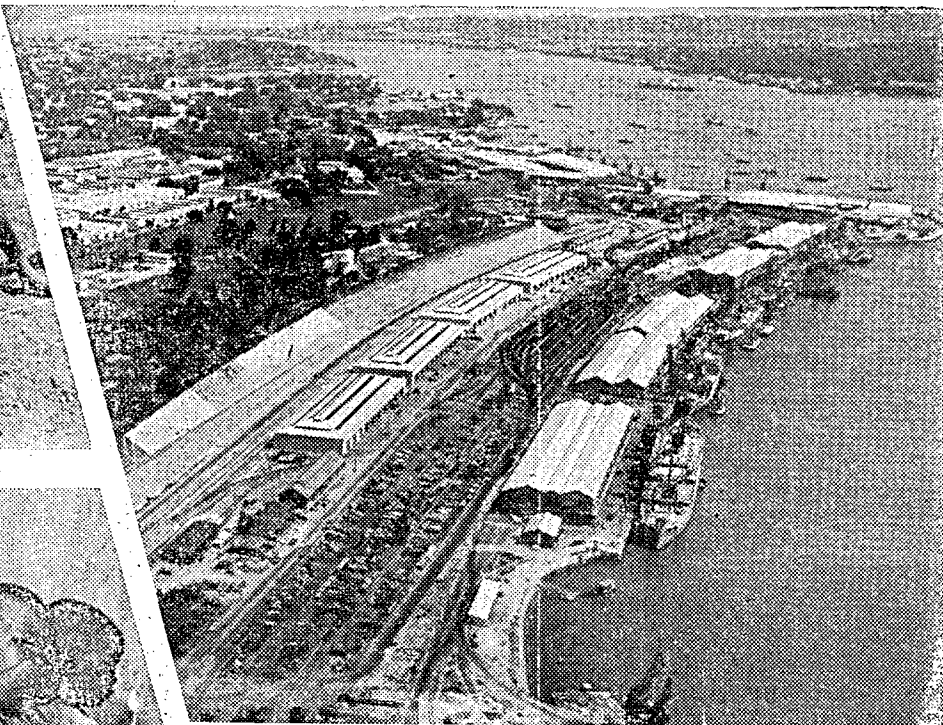
The fishing fleet sets out from a bay near Kisumu, on Lake Victoria



the making of insecticides



Planting potatoes in the right way on a school farm



Where railway meets ship at Mombasa, the chief port



pineapples for sale

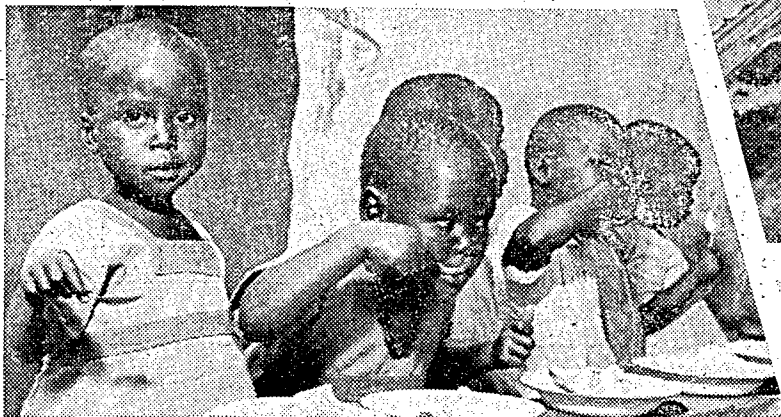


Table for five at a school in the Meru district



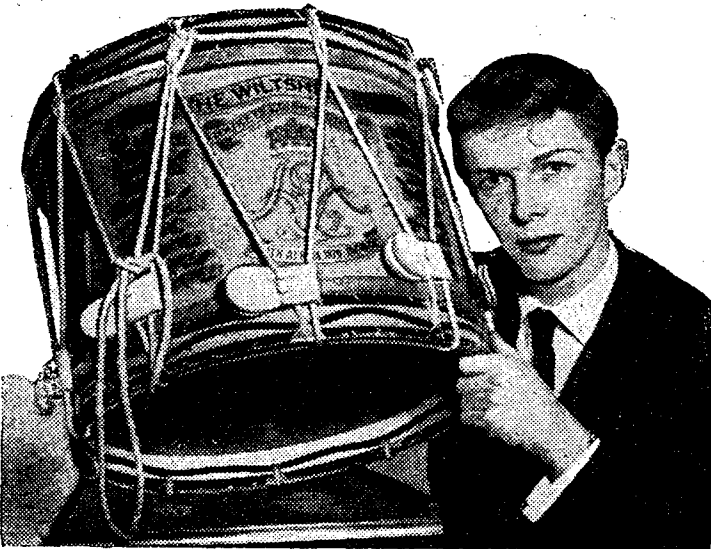
Winnowing the rice-crop in the Tana River district



Girl of the primitive Masai (Mah-sigh) tribe



A coast fisherman brings in his catch



The drum of the Wiltshires

This drum was left behind on the beach at Dunkirk by the Wiltshire Regiment in 1940 and was picked up by a Dane who was then working there. He afterwards took it to Denmark but before his death expressed a wish that his son would return it to England. Here we see the son, Rebe Iversen, with the Wiltshire's drum which he handed over to the Colonel of the regiment the other day at the Devizes depot.

Animal Family Life

How different kinds of wild creatures behave when bringing up their young, and how the young behave while being brought up, are admirably dealt with in a new book, *Animal Families*, by Maurice Burton (Routledge, 12s. 6d.).

Dr. Burton deals with a fine variety of birds, and also mammals, reptiles, insects, and spiders. Every chapter has information in it that will be new to most readers.

Not for the first time, Jane Burton has contributed lively and accurate drawings to one of her father's books of natural history. A glance at the captions to these pictures gives a good idea of the ground the author covers. Here are a few examples:

"Half-grown young moorhen retches parent to deal with disobedient younger brother";

"A lamb can get up and walk an hour after birth";

"Baby opossums cling to

mother's back to be carried about";

"Female wolf-spider carries her family pick-a-back";

"Do mother vipers swallow their young to protect them?"

The answer to this last question, and to many other questions, can be found in *Animal Families*.

C. D. D.

Surprise for the Bantams

Two bantam hens in New Zealand have become foster-mothers to four chicks of the rare notornis, a species of bird long thought to be extinct. Found by wild-life officers in a remote mountain fastness of South Island, the chicks will take about a year to grow into six-pound adults, and will be the first notornis birds reared in captivity.

WHO'S WHO AT THE ZOO

Hoppy is a wise old bird

A BLACK-HEADED gull which has been daily visiting the London Zoo Gardens during recent winters is back once again. He is a one-legged bird known to the keepers as Hoppy.

"We first made Hoppy's acquaintance about three years ago," said Headkeeper George Newson, of the penguin section. "He was one of many gulls which hovered expectantly around the penguin pool at feeding time. Normally we don't befriend these gate-crashers, but seeing Hoppy's disability, we took pity on him and gave him a bit of fish.

"Although he is a big bird, he cannot fend for himself very well, and whenever we give him a tit-bit, he is invariably set upon by his companions. But Hoppy is a wise old bird. On being given some fish, he takes it to the roof of the nearby reptile house, where he sits just outside the laboratory windows. The rest are too scared to approach so close to human habitation.

"Hoppy is now so tame that we can feed him by hand."

Very colourful visitor

Incidentally, the Zoo just now has another regular avian visitor—an Indian ring-necked parakeet, which can be seen flying about the grounds.

"Where this parakeet came from we have no idea," said Mr. John Yealland, curator of birds. "It is not one of ours. Presumably it escaped from some private home. It has vivid green plumage, with a jet-black ring around its neck, and a bright red beak.

"How it manages to survive at this time of year is a mystery, but no doubt it takes shelter somewhere in the Gardens. Visitors often throw it titbits, and at other times the bird can be seen along the Regent's Canal, searching

among the bushes for berries. Its favourite haunt in the Gardens seems to be the cockatoos' aviary where it perches on top of the wire roof 'chatting' to the inmates."

Death of the tame lizard

Egbert, the Lace monitor, one of the Zoo's tamest giant lizards, has died. Egbert, who was five feet long, came from Australia in 1954 and soon acquired his name on account of his fondness for eggs.

"He would come to the front of his den to have his head stroked, and then open his jaws wide," said an official. "He was most disappointed if an egg was not popped in. He swallowed eggs whole, shell and all. Many of them were unfit for human consumption, but that didn't worry Egbert!"

"We have three other Lace monitors, but none of them is anything like as tame as Egbert, nor likely to become so. It is very rare for these giant lizards to allow themselves to be petted."

Tunku the tortoise likes company

Tunku, the Singalese Starred tortoise, lent to the Zoo a year ago by Prince William of Gloucester, has been giving keepers some anxiety. For some reason he went off his feed and seemed to be moping.

"We have solved the problem by giving Tunku some companions," said an official. "Until now he has been living alone as we had no other Starred tortoises to put with him. But we have given him a Brazilian tortoise of about the same size, and also a rather smaller South African bow-spirit tortoise.

"From the moment we introduced these two into the cage, a marked change took place in Tunku. He is obviously happier and is feeding well again. There is no doubt at all that companionship has done the trick."

Keepers in search of snakes

Two keepers are going to British Guiana on a collecting expedition. They are Keeper Ronald Shingler of the Bird House, and Keeper Clive Roots of the Small Mammal House.

"The object of their search," an official told me, "is mainly to secure a number of the rarer birds, although they will get mammals and reptiles if opportunity offers. Indeed, among their commissions is one from the Paignton Zoo, who particularly want boa-constrictors, and anacondas, coral snakes, rattlesnakes, and electric eels."

Craven Hill

Good catch



Horatio the Hornbill, from India, shows great skill in catching a rubber ball at the London Zoo.

PIONEERS OF FLIGHT—new picture-story of the famous Wright brothers (4)



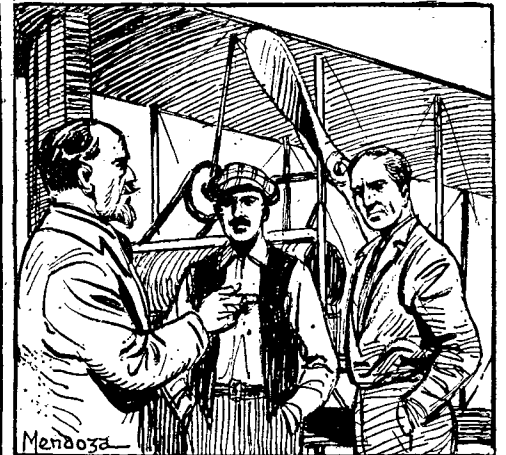
In 1903, after their wind tunnel research, the Wrights carried out more successful glider tests. Then came the problem of obtaining a motor to transform a glider into a real "flying machine." Engineering companies they consulted were not helpful, so they built an engine themselves. It had four cylinders, and its twin propellers were driven by chains, after the style of a bicycle.



Taking their first plane and its engine in crates, they went to Kitty Hawk in September 1903. But on arrival they found that one of the worst storms the district had known for years had partly wrecked the shed they had built the previous year. They set to work to repair it as their living quarters, and then began building an additional one as a workshop in which to assemble their new aeroplane.



They had repaired the old shed and had nearly completed the second one when another storm sprang up with winds of over 75 m.p.h. They risked going on to the roof to nail it down, but the wind was too strong for them to swing a hammer. Orville was in danger of being blown off, and Wilbur had to go to his assistance. Luckily the roof held. Later they completed the workshop.



It took them three weeks to assemble their new machine, but when they tested the engine it back-fired, tearing loose a propeller shaft, and they had to send to Dayton for new propeller shafts. Then their friend Octave Chanute, the well-known engineer, visited them and caused them much anxiety by his opinion that the loss of power in chain transmission was much greater than they had allowed for.

Fortune seems to frown on the Wrights' first attempt to fly. See next week's instalment

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LIVING DANGEROUSLY

By Garry Hogg

4. THE LUMBERJACK

Chapter 1

THE true lumberjack is hardly known in Britain. We grow relatively so little big timber in this country that timber felling can be carried out by just a handful of small firms, to be found chiefly in areas where timber is heaviest, as in Sussex. To find timber felling on the grand scale it is necessary to go to Norway, Sweden, and Finland, or across the Atlantic to Canada and North America, the true home of the lumberjack. He is a craftsman in a great tradition: one that in fact goes back some 300 years and, unlike many traditions which today are dying, flourishes in the present century as strongly as ever.

North America alone possesses something like 650 million acres of timber forests. In order to fell and transport the enormous quantities of timber that are required for one purpose and another all the year round and every year, something like 15,000 men may be employed by a single company in the timber "stands" which they own; the total of lumberjacks operating in these millions of acres of forest runs into some hundreds of thousands.

They are seen at their most active, perhaps, in the 1000-mile-long timber zone that runs up the Pacific coastline of America towards the frontier with Canada and stretches inland as much as 150 miles. Here are the giant Redwoods: trees that grow to a height of well over 300 feet, are 20 and more feet thick at the base, and are often up to 2000 years old. And here, too, grow the giant Douglas firs—trees only just less spectacular in growth than the Redwoods.

Felling a giant

A man who had spent many years of his life travelling around the big lumber camps, and knew many of the old-time lumberjacks, wrote about what he had seen in those forests:

"No one will ever forget the first time he saw a big Redwood fall. With the layout (the prepared strip, like that cleared by a chimney feller) made and the undercut done, the fellers go to work with the saw. A host of wedges is used to keep the saw from binding and to direct the tree's fall. When the giant gives its first slight shudder of death, the feller sounds the loggers' traditional warning cry of 'TIM-BERRRRR!'—a wail with a rising inflexion, often the last sound heard by a heedless man.

"You see the very top tremble a bit. Presently there is a sound that might be likened to a close and slow-moving thunderbolt, if there were such a thing. It is a dry, tearing sound, as though the



A head rigger climbs to prepare a spar tree

clouds were being ripped apart. Then there comes a brief moment when this tearing, ripping, splitting noise has an undertone of a great swishing, like a hurricane being born. The long, rumbling crash booms in your ears and sends a vast noise echoing through the hills. The ground trembles, and in any camp cook-house, if under a mile away, flunkies (the novice-apprentices) can tell by the rattle of dishes on the shelves that an extra big tree has come to earth."

Working in teams

And who are the men whose trade it is to fell and then transport these forest giants? They are individuals who work in teams, every man having his own particular task, some more important than others. A typical lumber camp today will consist of about 60 men, though some of the big camps may have as many as 300 in all. The men are divided into "sides," much as a ship's crew is divided into port and star-board watches. There will be, for instance, the "skidder" side, the "slack-line" side, and so on; each with its specific function, each forming part of an operation at once arduous and hazardous.

The man who has complete authority over all the "sides" in the logging outfit is the camp foreman; his is a post of immense responsibility and he is a veteran among lumberjacks, a man who has probably held almost all the individual posts in turn during a long career and has proved himself capable of handling men as tough as any to be met with in any trade, highly individual, and with immense pride in their capabilities.

The foreman in charge of a "side" is called the "hook tender." A "chokerman" is responsible for fixing the "chokers," a highly specialised type of hawser link, to the butt-ends of the felled trees. An important member of a "side," responsible for giving the signals to the men operating the various donkey-engines used for winding, hauling, and other jobs, and also for warning other lumberjacks in the vicinity of falling timber, is called the "whistle-punk." The "chaser" is a specialist in unhooking "chokers" when timber has been dragged to the loading sites.

Powder-monkey

A "gopher," or "powder-monkey," has the dangerous task of applying explosive in cases where butt-ends of heavy trees have become embedded in soft ground while they were being hauled by cable. A specialist mechanic is always on duty to service and repair power-operated equipment, and he goes by the name of "donkey-doctor."

There are also, of course, cooks, blacksmiths and other tradesmen whose duty it is to keep all equipment—saws, axes, wedges, cables, chains, and so forth—in perfect condition at all times.

One lumberjack stands very literally apart from all the others. He is the "head rigger" or, as he likes to be known, the "high climber." His job is the most spectacular, the most highly skilled, the most dangerous, of all.

Where big trees stand close set, and on steep gradients, the only way to transport them from where they are felled to the loading site is by what is known as the "high lead." This is a steel cable running through a massive pulley-block slung at a height of 150 or 200 feet and wound on the drum of a powerful donkey-engine. It is in the preparation of this transport system that the "high climber" is the vital factor.

Head rigger's task

First of all the foreman chooses what is known as a "head" or "spar" tree, which is located in the centre of what will become the loading site. This may be in a small clearing in the forest; or a clearing may have to be made by felling a number of trees and leaving the spar tree in the centre. Now the high climber begins his work.

Wearing a pair of heavily spurred boots, carrying a short-handled axe and a short felling saw slung to a wide leather belt, and looped into a manilla rope with a safety wire core, he starts to climb the spar tree. One by one, he saws or lops off the branches as he works his way up,

leaving behind him a cleanly trimmed mast. He climbs to 150 feet or perhaps 200 feet, to a point where the diameter of the tree is no more than a couple of feet or so. And then begins the most perilous part of the whole operation: he has to decapitate the tree.

After axing a V-shaped cut right round the trunk, he begins to saw with great care, keeping a wary eye on his safety belt which, with his steel spurs, is all that keeps him on his aerial perch: to saw through it, which would be so easy, would be to commit suicide. Gradually the saw-cut deepens. He watches it begin to open as the weight of the branches on the opposite side begins to make itself felt.

Moment of peril

The moment when it cracks and falls away is, for him, the moment of extreme peril. Several tons, maybe, of heavy timber is falling away from him; the butt-end of the tree top exerts enormous pressure against the main trunk; then, suddenly, it is released. The 200-foot spar to which he clings with spurs and safety-belt whips backwards and forwards in the air like a gigantic inverted pendulum, shivering throughout its length with the sudden releasing of the strain as the tree top crashes to the ground 200 feet below. Only great strength, and nerves of steel, enable the high climber to retain his hold as it whips to and fro.

His job, however, is not yet completed. He has hauled up with him a thin line. To this the men below attach a stouter line, and he hauls this up to him, hand over hand. Next comes a heavier "pass line," to which is attached a pulley-block. He makes this fast, and through it is run a rope and a bos'n's chair. With the aid of this, the high climber makes a series of descents and ascents, collecting further pieces of equip-

ment. More wire "straps" are securely attached to the top of the spar, and to them he fixes the upper ends of a series of steel guy-ropes which are then attached to big tree stumps all round the base of the spar. Finally he hauls up and attaches the massive pulley, weighing perhaps a hundredweight or more, through which the transport cables are going to run.

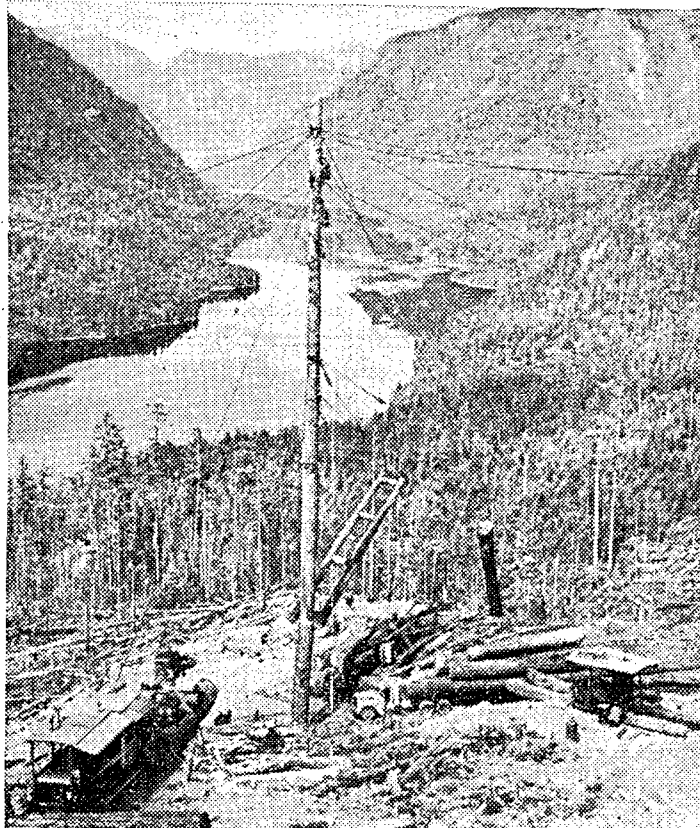
It is a major operation carried out virtually solo and demanding great strength, a superb head for heights, and the agility of an acrobat or a monkey. It is small wonder that the high climber has always been a prince among lumberjacks since the high lead system was first devised.

Once the pulley is in position the work of felling the surrounding trees can proceed. After a tree has crashed to the ground and been cut into convenient-sized logs, the wire chokers are wrapped round them and attached to the steel cables which pass through the pulley. The donkey engine then winds in the cables so that the logs are lifted clear of the ground and hauled to the foot of the spar tree, where they are loaded onto lorries or some other form of transport.

Two-man units

But first, of course, the trees have to be felled. In the old days this was done with axes and two-handed saws. Today, though the same tools are much used, power-operated saws of various types are becoming more and more the vogue. In either case, the lumberjacks normally work in two-man units. The senior of the two is the "faller." He picks his tree, decides on the point at which to cut it, on the direction it is to fall, and so on. With him is his machine-man, responsible for lugging around the heavy power-operated saw, for keeping it

Continued on page 10



The felled trees sawn into logs, are hauled from the forest to the spar tree, situated in the centre of the loading site

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DIANA KING, CNSA 18a Church St., Walton-on-Thames, Surrey

THE WORLD OF STAMPS

Wild West enthusiasts will soon be able to add another stamp to their collections. To be issued by the American Post Office on February 14, the new stamp marks the hundredth anniversary of the admission of Oregon to the United States. It was the 33rd State in the Union.

An area of nearly 97,000 square miles on the west coast, between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific Ocean, Oregon received

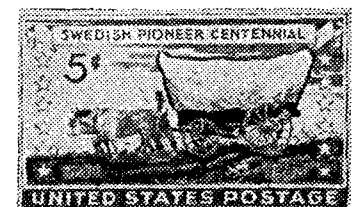


its name from the Indian word for its longest river, now the Columbia. The first white settlers in Oregon were trappers of John Jacob Astor's fur-trading company, and they named their settlement Astoria in his honour.

The early settlers made their way to the Wild West in covered wagons such as that shown on the new stamp. Some of them travelled by the old Oregon Trail. Two thousand miles long, the Trail started at Independence, Missouri, wound its way over the Rockies, and ended to the west

of Mount Hood, the 12,000-foot peak which is also pictured on the stamp.

A map of the Oregon Trail is shown on an American stamp issued in 1936 and several other issues feature the covered wagon.



A particularly good picture of one appears on a stamp of 1948 issued for the centenary of a great trek westwards by pioneers of Swedish descent.

Strangely enough, one of the best portraits of a Red Indian is to be found on a stamp from Sweden. It is one of a series of five issued in 1938 to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the colony of New Sweden. This stood on the Delaware River and is now part of the State of Delaware. The stamp shows the first governor of New Sweden talking to a Red



LIVING DANGEROUSLY

Continued from page 9

pressed home against the tree and working full blast until the faller yells "Tim-berrrr!" and the two men jump for their lives. A tree butt with perhaps two or three hundred feet of timber above it, can jump and buck like any wild steer when the long length of Redwood or Douglas fir hits the ground.

The method of cutting does not vary much, whether the saws are manually or power operated. Two deep slits, about six inches apart, are cut into the tree on the side to which it is intended that it shall fall. The cuts are made at an angle to one another, though the top or bottom cut will be made horizontal. When the half-way mark has been reached, axes are used to cut out the wedge-shaped timber between the cuts, and the saw is moved to the opposite side, to cut a deep slit very slightly higher than the top slit made on the first side. A big tree may have a diameter of anything up to 20 or 30 feet, so that the saws have to be correspondingly long. For the very big trees it is customary to use chain saws, worked either off a tractor or off their own motor.

Job for the buck

A tree is felled, so far as is practicable, along the line of contour, if the slope is pronounced: this facilitates handling it after it has been thrown. Lengths of up to 40 or more feet can be handled by the high lead system and even by tractors, if the ground is firm and unencumbered. Otherwise it is necessary to call in the "bucker." He works singly, or sometimes with a mate, his job being to saw the fallen timber

into convenient lengths for transport. He uses a big buck saw and needs great strength and a wide knowledge of the ways of felled timber: if a length of tree trunk sags at the point where he is sawing, he breaks his saw—a prime cause of shame among lumberjacks!

Axes and saws are the main equipment of the lumberjacks, and they are cherished by them almost as though they were extensions of their own limbs—as indeed they really are. Axe blades weigh up to five pounds, and sometimes half as much again. Handles, of ash or hickory or ironwood, are usually three feet long, but may be as long as four feet. In very cold weather the blades have to be warmed before use as frost can crystallise highly tempered steel till it becomes dangerous.

Grateful for power

The saws used are cross-cuts, anything from five feet long to over twenty feet: it takes two very skilled lumberjacks to handle one of those monsters in the heart of a big Redwood or Douglas fir without getting a bend in the cut, which will soon bind the saw irretrievably. Even the most dyed-in-the-wool lumberjack is now prepared to be grateful for the coming of the power-operated circular, drag, or chain saw: whereas to fell a big tree of perhaps 45 feet in girth once took a three-man team with axes, saws, and wedges the best part of two long days, it can now be done in a matter of hours.

(Next week Garry Hogg describes how the timber is transported, a task which often involves the lumberjack in one of his most dangerous jobs.)

Indian chief. Many American stamps and several from Canada also portray Red Indians and, of course, cowboys.

A NEW series of high value stamps is being prepared in Australia, as briefly mentioned in CN for January 17. Each will depict a different Australian flower, among them the flannel flower, banksia, Christmas bells, waratah, and wattle. The stamps have been designed by an Australian artist, Miss Margaret Stones, who is at present working at Kew Gardens.

During February and March Australia is also to issue new low value stamps bearing the Queen's portrait. The 1d. and 4d. stamps will be first placed on sale next week in Sydney, where the Aus-



tralian National Philatelic Exhibition is being held. The 3d. value will be issued in March.

Another new Australian issue ready on April 22 is a 4d. stamp to mark the 150th anniversary of the Australian Post Office. This was founded in 1809 when the Governor of New South Wales appointed Mr. Isaac Nichols to supervise the distribution of letters and parcels arriving from Britain.

C. W. HILL

Up the Antarctic volcano

New Zealand explorers have made the third ascent of Mount Erebus, the active 13,000-foot volcano on Ross Island in McMurdo Sound. The first was made in 1908 by a party from Shackleton's expedition, and the second in 1912 by Scott's men.

The 1959 party of three climbed the Antarctic mountain by a new route on the south side.

Five young friends



These four St. Bernard pups are on their way to South Africa and Rhodesia. They were bred by the father of Oliver Barazetti, of Luton, Bedfordshire, who is seeing his young friends off.

PUZZLE PARADE

SPOT THE COUNTRIES

Find the answers to these clues and, if you have the correct answers, you will find that the initial and last letters of the words will form the names of two European countries.

To rush off.
To repeat.
Used with a hammer.
Food taken at one time.
The "size" of a piece of ground.
A derelict building.
Sort.

IN TROUBLED WATERS

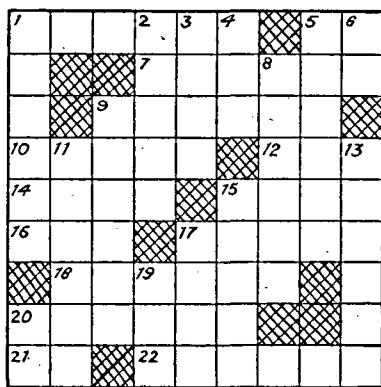
One of the following is out of place among its companions:

MURRAY; Severn; Superior;
Volga; Yangtze.

ADD AN ISLAND

Between the lines below insert the name of an island off the west shores of England to make five words reading down.

A F I O A
E N N D E



AMONG THE TREES

In which tree did Charles the Second hide?

Which tree is a "dainty lady"?
From which tree are cricket bats made?

Which trees have:

- (a) Lambs' tails;
(b) Conkers?

Which tree is often called "The Mother of the Forest"?

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

By adding one letter to each of these words the name of some weight or measure may be made.

RAIN. INK. ABLE. RAM.
ONCE.

MIXED BREEDS

The jumbled names of five different breeds of dogs are given below. When you have sorted them out, you will find that the initial letters will give the name of yet another breed of dog.

EVERRITER. RISHITERSET.
LICOLE. OUNDHGERY.
HOTTERDUNO.

Crossword Puzzle

READING ACROSS. 1 Musical composition. 5 Printers' measure. 7 Ally. 9 Kept for future use. 10 Behaved. 12 Raced. 14 Row. 15 Mud. 16 Before. 17 Gaps. 18 Frightening. 20 Gloss or shine. 21 Because. 22 Treat as an invalid. READING DOWN. 1 Quiet. 2 Behind or later. 3 Stepped. 4 Atmosphere. 5 Undergo. 6 Doctor of Medicine. 8 Weirdly. 9 Guides. 11 Show with clowns, animals, and acrobats. 13 Snuggle. 15 Sulked. 17 Brave man. 19 Etcetera. 20 Los Angeles.

Answer next week

JUMBLED PROVERBS



THREE well-known proverbs have been jumbled here. You should be able to sort them out easily, for the words in each proverb are in the same lettering.

SIX CREATURES WANTED

Fill in the blank with the name of a wild creature to complete the following familiar expressions:

ROARS like a —
The — cannot change its spots.
As blind as a —
As slippery as an —
As grey as a —
As bald as a —

HUNT THE LIZARD

My first's in Walrus, not in Whale,
My second's in Ant and also in Snail.
My third's in Lion but not in Goat,
My fourth's in Weasel and also in Stoat.
My fifth's in Mullet but never in Trout,
My Sixth's in Plaice but not in Pout.
My seventh's in Fawn but not in Deer,
My eighth's in Dog and not in Steer.
My ninth's in Lobster, not in Crab,
My last's in Shrimp but not in Dab.
My whole you'll find a Lizard-like creature,
Whose five black toes are quite a feature.

THE ANSWER IS TRUE

WHAT is it that everybody and everything are always doing at the same time?

JUST A FEW WORDS

HERE is an entertaining way to increase your knowledge of words. Each numbered sentence below is followed by three answers or comments you might make; but in each case, only one is correct and shows that you have understood the meaning of the word in italics. To answer five or six correctly is very good.

Answers are given in column 5

- You have *alienated* your brother.
A—Sent him abroad.
B—Forced him into line.
C—Lost his friendship.
- The speaker had an *unctuous* manner.
A—Sparkling with wit.
B—Rough and uneducated.
C—Gushing with insincerity.
- We had an *alfresco* meal.
A—A picnic out-of-doors.
B—Made from the left-overs.
C—A lavish banquet.
- He is one of the *elite*.
A—A law-breaker.
B—The most select society.
C—Has shy, retiring manners.
- I spoke *spontaneously*.
A—On my own impulse.
B—On behalf of someone else.
C—From time to time.
- His work shows *profundity*.
A—Produced in vast quantities.
B—Wickedly disrespectful.
C—Has depth of feeling.

BILLY COULDN'T SAY STOP!

AFTER learning about Billy's sled rides on a tea-tray, Daddy decided that he would build a proper sled. Billy was absolutely thrilled when he saw it for the first time after breakfast on Saturday.

"Whoopee," he roared. "I'm off to the common."

"Not so fast, my lad," said Mummy with a smile. "First of all I want you to hop along to the shops to get me a few things. I shan't have time to go out before lunch."

Billy pulled a long face, but then he had one of his ideas. He took the sled outside, pulled a piece of string from his pocket, and called to Rover. He quickly slipped the string through Rover's collar and tied the ends to the sled.

"Come on, my faithful husky," he cried. "Mush—or whatever the word is the Eskimos use."

It did not take long to get to

the grocer's, pile the things on the sled, and start for home. But no sooner had they set off than one of the packages fell off. Billy stopped, but Rover did not. And before Billy had realised it his "dog-team" was way ahead of him.

"Come back," he yelled. "Stop." But Rover trotted on, taking no notice. He wanted to get back to the house and get this game over.

Billy gave a sigh then charged after him. But every time it seemed that he was about to catch Rover another parcel fell off and he had to stop.

"I thought you went out with Rover," said Mummy as Billy staggered through the gate with his pile of groceries.

"I did," said Billy. "But Rover thought he was a husky—and I didn't know the Eskimo for 'stop'."

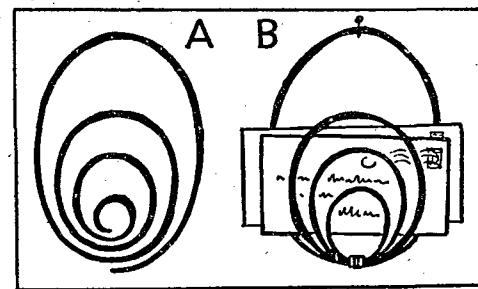
LUCKY DIP

THE BEGINNER

I BOUGHT myself some bright red wool,
And taught myself to knit,
But though I "purl and plain" all day,
I can't make things that fit.
I got a needle and some thread,
And thought I'd like to sew,
But pricked my thumb, and quite forgot.
Which way the stitches go.
I put my needlework away
In Mummy's sewing drawer,
Went back to playing with my doll;
You see, I'm only four!

THE WIRE LETTER-RACK

THE letter-rack seen in the illustration can be made from only two materials—wire and raffia.



Some rather stout wire, or a few strands of thin wire twisted together, should be made into a coil, as seen at A. Then bind the ends of the coil at the bottom, as seen in the completed letter-rack (B):

JUST DOUBLE

MUSIC teacher: "I have told you that *f* means forte, so what do you think *ff* means?"

Pupil: "Eighty!"

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES

In troubled waters. Superior is a lake; the others are rivers. Add an island. LUNDY—ale; fun. inn; odd; aye. Among the trees. Oak; birch; willow; (a) Hazel, (b) Horse chestnut; beech. Jumbled proverbs. A stitch in time saves nine; Look before you leap; Better late than never. Six creatures Na i L wanted. Lion; leopard; bat; cat; Are A badger; coot. Hunt the lizard. Ru i N Salamander. The answer is true. Kin D Growing older. Weights and measures. G-rain; l-link; e-cable; d-dram; o-u-nce. Mixed Breeds. Retriever; Irish Setter; Collie; Greyhound; Otterhound.

JUST A FEW WORDS

- C To alienate is to lose the friendship of; to turn away affection. (From Latin *alienatus*, given up, lost.)
- C Unctuous means full of exaggerated fervour or emotion; gushing or oily in manner. (From Latin *unctum*, ointment.)
- A Alfresco means in the open air. (From Italian *al fresco*, in the fresh air.)
- B Elite refers to a choice, select body of persons; the pick or select part of society. (From French *élite*, chosen.)
- A Spontaneously means by one's own impulse, without outside influence. (From Latin *spontaneus*, of one's free will.)
- C Profundity is depth; quality of having deep feeling. (From Latin *profundus*, depth, intensity.)

C N Competition Corner

25 FOUNTAIN-PENS TO BE WON!

WHETHER you like geography or simply enjoy solving puzzles, here is a competition that should provide you with a lot of fun—as well as testing your knowledge. There are 25 splendid "Osmiroid" exchange-point Fountain-Pens to be won and the competition is open to all C N readers under the age of 17 who are living in Great Britain, Ireland, and the Channel Islands—free!

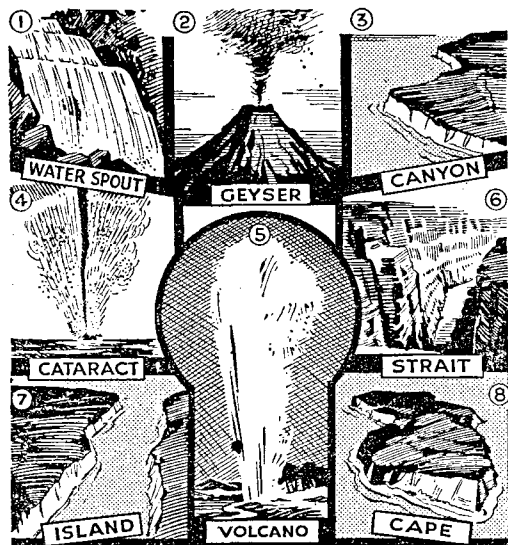
WHAT TO DO: Here are pictures of eight geographical features, but their names have been put against the wrong pictures. Can you give each picture the right label?

Write your answers in a neat numbered list on a postcard—thus: 1. CATARACT, and so on. Add your own full name, age, and address, then ask a parent or guardian to sign the entry as your own unaided work. Post to:

C N Competition
No. 18,
3 Pilgrim Street,
London, E.C.4
(Comp.),

to arrive not later than Tuesday, February 10, the closing date.

The Prize Fountain-Pens will be awarded to the 25 boys and girls sending in the neatest correct entries, with handwriting according to age taken into account. The Editor's decision is final!



Young tennis players of great promise

Two young tennis players who are determined to make their name in the game are 14-year-old Joyce Barclay of Dundee, and 17-year-old Billy Northcott, who comes from the Cornish village of Torpoint.

Joyce, who impressed everyone with her aggressive play in the recent Covered Courts Championship, was one of five girls chosen for special L.T.A. coaching at London's Queen's Club. Joyce is

not short of high-class play at home. Living quite near is the former Senorita Anita Lizana, ranked No. 1 in the world in 1937. Now Mrs. Ellis, the former champion has three tennis-playing daughters, one of whom, Rita, was runner up in last year's Scottish Junior championship.

Billy Northcott believes the secret of success at tennis is fitness. That is why most evenings he can be seen trotting round the streets near his "digs" in West London, where he now lives.

Billy was runner up in last month's junior championship, and he is now hoping to qualify for the senior covered courts championship in March.

Three months ago Billy had the chance of joining one of the world's biggest motor companies, but he preferred to come to London and strive to make a name in tennis.

Record for Ton Jordan?

At Leicester on Thursday, England meet Scotland in the first of the season's badminton internationals. If Cheshire's Tony Jordan plays for England in this match, as seems almost certain, he will be making his 40th appearance in an international, a record.

One young player who may break this fine record in the years to come is 16-year-old Roger Mills, of Surrey. This Bec Grammar Schoolboy, who recently retained the All-England junior singles title, is regarded as one of our most promising players for many years.

Roger took up badminton, at the age of ten, after watching his father and mother playing the game. His progress was phenomenal, and during the last two years he has become undisputed junior champion. Now he is ready to step up into the senior ranks, for he has already won his first senior title—the West Hampshire Championship.

His success is a tribute to his painstaking attention to training and coaching. He plays rugby and cricket at school, but only as a means to keep him in tip-top condition for badminton.

Canoe champion



Marianne Chandler, of the Richmond Canoe Club, Surrey, is 500 metres British Ladies Champion in her chosen sport of canoeing and is hoping for Olympic honours.

Years of endless entertainment!

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Because of an auto-chord attachment this professional-style four-string instrument can be played without any knowledge of music or previous experience. It is sent to you complete with comprehensive tutor, peg-key, pitch pipe, diagrammatic song book and shaped carrying case for the exceptional price of

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plus 3/6 P. & P.

OR **5/-**

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plus 3/6 P. & P.
and 18 fortnightly
payments of 4/6i
Write now while stocks
last to:

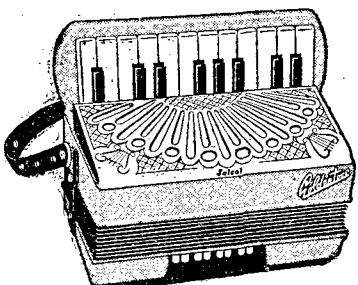


GOLDENTONE ACCORDION

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CASH PRICE **£3. 0. 0** plus 3/6 P. & P.

OR **5/-** DEPOSIT
plus 3/6 P. & P.
and 18 fortnightly
payments of 3/5.



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Sporting Flashbacks

INTERNATIONAL GOALKEEPER

FRANK MOSS

INJURED HIS SHOULDER
PLAYING FOR ARSENAL
V. EVERTON IN 1935...

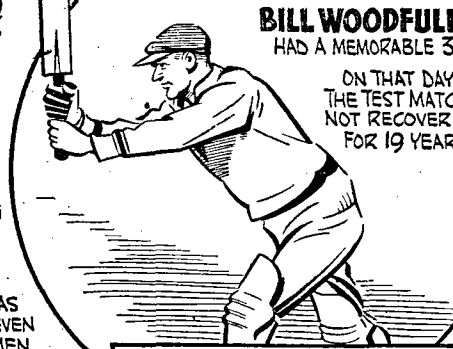
HE RETURNED TO
THE FIELD AS
OUTSIDE-LEFT
AND SCORED
THE WINNING
GOAL, BUT THE
INJURY
ENDED HIS
CAREER.



FRANK WAS
ONE OF SEVEN
ARSENAL MEN
IN ENGLAND'S TEAM
V. ITALY IN 1934—
MOSS, MALE, HAPGOOD,
COPPING, BOWDEN,
DRAKE AND
BASTIN.

BILL WOODFULL (FORMER AUSTRALIAN CAPTAIN)
HAD A MEMORABLE 37th BIRTHDAY (Aug. 22, 1934).

ON THAT DAY HE AND HIS MEN REGAINED
THE TEST MATCH ASHES AND ENGLAND DID
NOT RECOVER THEM
FOR 19 YEARS.



STARTING IN 1919, GIANT CENTRE-HALF

JACK HILL

PLAYED SOCCER FOR DURHAM CITY, PLYMOUTH
ARGYLE, BURNLEY, NEWCASTLE UNITED,
BRADFORD CITY, HULL CITY, AND ENGLAND
— AND CAPTAINED THEM ALL.



More records for the Konrads

It was just a year ago that Jon and Ilsa Konrads leaped into the headlines with their record-breaking swims. In a period of six weeks Jon broke no fewer than 12 world records and Ilsa broke two more. Now these amazing youngsters are at it again!

Jon first of all knocked 13.9 seconds off the record time for the 880 yards free-style. Then 14-year-old Ilsa followed with one of the most remarkable efforts ever seen in a pool. Swimming on her own, she took 36.7 seconds off the previous best time for the 1500 metres (1640 yards one foot) and went on to cover 1650 yards in 19 minutes 25.7 seconds, which is over a minute under the standard time for the distance.

Cap trick

Four weeks ago in the Sports Quiz was the question: "Is a batsman out if his hat falls on his wicket and dislodges a bail?"

The answer was Yes, and many readers thought it would be very bad luck for any batsman to get out in that way. Yet it happened the other day at Wellington, New Zealand.

A young batsman played at the ball, missed, and it hit him on the body, ran up his chest, and hit him on the chin. The batsman instinctively jerked back his head and his hat fell off—to hang on the stumps. Unfortunately, the bails were dislodged, so he was out "Hit wicket!"

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Can you name the only British runner to beat Herb Elliott last year?
2. When was the F.A. Cup Final first played at Wembley?
3. Which woman most often won the singles title at Wimbledon?
4. What is an anorak?
5. A batsman strikes the ball to a fielder, who stops it with his cap. How many runs are added to the striker's score?
6. Which soccer team plays at The Hawthorns?

1. Brian Hewson when winning the A.A. half-mile. 2. 1923. 3. Helen Willis-Moody, who won eight times. 4. A hooded wind-proof jacket worn by skiers. 5. Five. 6. West Bromwich Albion.

ENGLAND MUST WIN THE NEXT TWO TESTS

Two down and two to play. That is the position in which the England cricketers in Australia find themselves as they prepare for the Fourth Test which begins on Friday at Adelaide.

With Australia very much on top at the moment, England face a tough struggle for they must win the next two Tests to retain the Ashes. So far in this series the England batsmen have not found anything like their usual form, but the fine stand of Peter May and Colin Cowdrey in the second innings of the Third Test gives cause for hope to all enthusiasts following the matches in this

country. Peter May himself is confident that the tide will now turn and that England can win the next two Tests.

On the last tour of Australia, four years ago, Len Hutton's team won at Adelaide by five wickets on the evening of the last day, Australia being dismissed in their second innings for 111 runs. That victory gave England the rubber for the first time in Australia since 1933.

The first Test played at Adelaide was on the 1884-85 tour. Altogether 16 Tests have been played there; Australia have won nine, England six, with one draw.

Biggest innings in cricket

IN these days of defensive bowling and field-placing it might seem that one cricket record which would stay unbroken for ever was the 452 not out which Sir Don Bradman made in 1929 when playing for New South Wales against Queensland.

But Hanif Mohammad, the Pakistan opening batsman, has now scored 499 when playing for Karachi. He scored his runs in 10 hours 40 minutes.

Many critics have pointed out that a provincial match in Pakistan can hardly be compared with County cricket in this country or Sheffield Shield games in Australia. But it is up to the con-

trolling body of the country concerned to decide whether a match is first-class.

The innings, incidentally, was Hanif's second world cricket record. Playing for Pakistan against the West Indies last season he stayed at the wicket for 16 hours 13 minutes and set up a duration record. He scored 337 in that time—the third highest score in Test cricket.

Wanted—a good start

Tips on how to start are being given to young runners at the Mitcham Athletic Club, Surrey. The coach is Mrs K. Dale who gained Olympic honours in the hurdles as Kathleen Tiffin.

